

Appl. No. 09/804,973  
Amdt. dated May 16, 2005

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1.-55. (Canceled)

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) A locking system comprising:

a portable electronic computer having an external wall defining a security slot;  
a housing including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to preselected dimensions of said security slot which thereby permits said locking member to extend into said security slot;

said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from said security slot, and a locked position wherein said locking member is retained within said security slot;

a pin cooperatively coupled to said slot engagement member after said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position;

cable attachment means, coupled to said housing, for attaching a cable to said housing; and

a cable, coupled to said cable attachment means, for securing said portable electronic computer to an object other than to said housing;

wherein said pin includes a first threaded portion, complementary to a second threaded portion in an aperture in said housing.

Claims 57.-58. (Canceled)

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Claim 59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 wherein a first side of said housing abuts said external wall, and

wherein said housing includes a cavity and a second side opposite said first side that is open to access said cavity wherein said pin is insertable through said second side and into said cavity to cooperate with said slot engagement member to inhibit said rotation.

Claim 60. (Canceled)

Claim 61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 wherein said housing includes sidewalls orthogonal to said first side wherein said sidewalls include opposing apertures to permit said cable to extend therethrough after cooperation of said pin with said slot engagement member to inhibit removal of said pin from said security slot.

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59 further comprising a locking structure adapted for insertion into said cavity, said locking structure incorporating said pin at a first end such that insertion of said locking structure into said cavity cooperates said pin with said slot engagement member through an aperture in said first side.

Claim 63. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein said housing includes sidewalls orthogonal to said first side wherein said sidewalls include apertures and a second end of a spindle includes a transverse aperture co-linear with said opposing apertures in said sidewalls, said opposing apertures and said transverse apertures permitting said cable to extend therethrough after cooperation of said pin with said slot engagement member to inhibit uncooperation of said pin and said slot engagement member.

Claim 64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein said preselected dimensions are about three millimeters by about seven millimeters.

Claim 65. (Previously Presented) A locking system, comprising:  
a portable electronic device including an exterior wall defining a security slot;

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location fixing means for attaching to a first object other than to the portable electronic device;

a housing, coupled to said location fixing means and proximate to said electronic device and including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to preselected dimensions of said security slot to thereby permit said locking member to extend into said slot, said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from the slot, and a locked position wherein

said locking member is retained within the slot; and

a pin, coupled to said engagement member, for cooperating with said slot engagement member when said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position; and

wherein said locking member is T-shaped.

Claim 66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65 wherein said preselected dimensions are about three millimeters by about seven millimeters.

Claim 67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 wherein said locking member is "T-shaped."

Claim 68. (Canceled)

Claim 69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65 wherein said pin cooperates by extending into said security slot.

Claim 70. (Previously Presented) A cable attachment system, comprising:  
a portable computer including an exterior wall provided with a security slot having dimensions of about three millimeters by about seven millimeters;  
a locking structure, coupled to said cable, for attaching to said security slot, said locking structure comprising:

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a housing, adapted to abut said wall adjacent said security slot,  
said housing including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to said security slot to permit said locking member to extend into said security slot, said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from said security slot, and a locked position wherein said locking member is retained within said security slot; and

a pin coupled through said housing adjacent to said slot engagement member and cooperating with said slot engagement member after said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position; and

a cable for securing said portable computer to an object other than to said housing; and

wherein said pin cooperates by extending into said security slot.

Claim 71. (Previously Presented) A locking system comprising:

a portable electronic computer having an external wall defining a security slot;

a housing including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to preselected dimensions of said security slot which thereby permits said locking member to extend into said security slot;

said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from said security slot, and a locked position wherein said locking member is retained within said security slot;

a pin cooperatively coupled to said slot engagement member after said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position;

cable attachment means, coupled to said housing, for attaching a cable to said housing; and

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a cable, coupled to said cable attachment means, for securing said portable electronic computer to an object other than to said housing; and  
wherein said pin cooperates by extending into said security slot.

Claim 72. (Previously Presented) A locking system comprising:  
a portable electronic computer having an external wall defining a security slot;  
a housing including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to preselected dimensions of said security slot which thereby permits said locking member to extend into said security slot;

said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from said security slot, and a locked position wherein said locking member is retained within said security slot;

a pin cooperatively coupled to said slot engagement member after said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position;

cable attachment means, coupled to said housing, for attaching a cable to said housing; and

a cable, coupled to said cable attachment means, for securing said portable electronic computer to an object other than to said housing; and  
wherein said locking member is "T-shaped."

Claim 73. (Currently Amended) A locking system, comprising:  
a portable electronic device including an exterior wall defining a security slot;  
location fixing means for attaching to a first object other than to the portable electronic device;

a housing, coupled to said location fixing means and proximate to said electronic device and including a slot engagement member having a slot engaging portion provided with a locking member having a peripheral profile complementary to preselected dimensions of said

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security slot to thereby permit said locking member to extend into said slot, said slot engagement member being rotatable between an unlocked position wherein said locking member is removable from the slot, and a locked position wherein said locking member is retained within the slot;

a pin, coupled to said engagement member, for cooperating with said slot engagement member when said slot engagement member is in said locked position to thereby inhibit rotation of said slot engagement member to said unlocked position; and  
wherein said pin cooperates by extending into said security slot.

Claim 74. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for inhibiting theft of a portable electronic device having an external wall with a thickness, wherein the wall has a security slot, the apparatus comprising:

an attachment mechanism comprising a slot engagement member, wherein the slot engagement member is capable of insertion into the security slot in the wall of the portable electronic device and is capable of being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, and a pin structure capable of extending into the security slot; and  
a cable coupled to the attachment mechanism.

Claim 75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the security slot has dimensions of about 3 by about 7 millimeters.

Claim 76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the slot engagement member comprises a shaft and a crossmember at an end of the shaft.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein slot engagement member rotates between the locked position and the unlocked position.

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Claim 78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 further comprising a cylindrical housing, wherein the slot engagement member and the pin structure are at least partially enclosed in the cylindrical housing.

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a key-actuated lock mechanism.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 further comprising a housing and a spring, wherein the spring, the slot engagement member, and the pin are at least partially enclosed in the housing.

Claim 81. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the security slot has dimensions of about 3 by about 7 millimeters and wherein the slot engagement member has dimensions smaller than about 3 by about 7 millimeters.

Claim 82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the slot engagement member has a shaft that is longer than the thickness of the wall.

Claim 83.-88. (Canceled)

Claim 89. (Previously Presented) A locking system comprising:  
a portable electronic device having an external wall with a thickness, wherein the wall has a security slot;

a locking apparatus comprising an attachment mechanism comprising a slot engagement member, wherein the slot engagement member is capable of insertion into the security slot in the wall of the portable electronic device, and a cable coupled to the attachment mechanism; and

an immovable object, wherein the locking apparatus couples the portable electronic device and the immovable object together,

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wherein the attachment mechanism further comprises a pin, a housing and a spring, wherein the spring, the slot engagement member, and the pin are at least partially enclosed in the housing.

Claim 90.-97. (Canceled)

Claim 98. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 93~~ An apparatus for inhibiting theft of a portable electronic device having an external wall with a thickness, wherein the wall has a security slot that has dimensions of about 3 millimeters by about 7 millimeters, the apparatus comprising:

an attachment mechanism comprising a slot engagement member, wherein the slot engagement member is capable of insertion into the security slot in the wall of the portable electronic device and is capable of engaging the slot; and

a cable coupled to the attachment mechanism,

and wherein the slot engagement member has dimensions smaller than about 3 by about 7 millimeters, and wherein the apparatus further comprising comprises a pin, a housing and a spring, wherein the spring, the slot engagement member, and the pin are at least partially enclosed in the housing.

Claim 99.-108. (Canceled)

Claim 109. (New) A system comprising:  
the apparatus of claim 74; and  
the portable electronic device.

Claim 110. (New) The system of claim 109 wherein the portable electronic device is a portable computer.



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Claim 111. (New) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the cable comprises a closed loop at one end.

Claim 112. (New) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the security slot has parallel sides and rounded corners.

Claim 113. (New) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the pin structure is a first pin structure and wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a second pin structure, and wherein the slot engagement member is between the first pin structure and the second pin structure.